

**Mat Su State Parks
Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2010**

I Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

II Members in Attendance

Roy Wahl	Mary Anderson	John Strassenburgh
Steve Charles	Dave Horn	Greg Ronnback
Neil Fox	Robert Homer	

Members Absent

Glenn Goodman

Members Excused

Christopher Hospidales and Howard Carbone

Staff Members in Attendance

Wayne Biessel, Superintendent

Others in Attendance

Jim Barnett and Ralph Baldwin

Quorum was established

III Approval of Minutes

John Strassenburgh recommended numerous editorial type changes. It was decided that all acronyms will be spelled out. Mary restated all the recommended changes to the minutes from the April 13th, 2010, meeting.

Motion: Steve Charles moved to approve minutes from meeting of April 13th, 2010, to include all changes discussed. John Strassenburgh seconded.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

IV Correspondence

Notice from Mat-Su Borough regarding Tall Tower group meeting to be held 12 May, 2010, at Mat-Su College.

- Claire LeClaire made comments regarding the tower structure ordinance in Denali State Park.

V Persons to Be Heard

Decided that Jim Barnett, board applicant, would be heard at 7:45 pm prior to Mary leaving for another appointment.

VI Committee Reports

- a) Bylaws: Ralph Baldwin read an email from John Strassenburgh that gave a detailed account of how (procedurally) the new draft by-laws were authored. The committee met 7 times to complete this comprehensive rewrite. The majority of the changes and the reasoning for the changes were discussed section by section. Mary Anderson asked for members to review and be ready to act on them for the June 8th special meeting.

Note: Board applicant Jim Barnett was given time to speak to the advisory board for 15 minutes. Board members completed the interview process and Jim's application will be forwarded out via email for members to review prior to the vote. Following the interview, Mary Anderson departed for another meeting and John Strassenburgh took over to chair the remaining portion of the meeting at 8:05 pm.

- b) Hatcher Pass Management Plan: Robert Homer discussed the comments and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) timeline regarding submission of comments. A letter of recommendation from the board was not submitted due to the lack of a quorum at the 27 April, 2010, meeting. Board members are still encouraged to submit their own personal comments to DNR.
- c) Matanuska Greenbelt Project: Neil Fox discussed the latest progress and updates on the trail system and notes from the 6 May meeting. Forty signs to date have been installed. The committee is now also deciding on names for the trails and future goals. Neil discussed the plans for the 12 June event in honor of Alaska State Parks 40th anniversary. Mark Gronewald, trail technician, will be assisting with the event. The time of the event will be from 10 am – 2 pm. Events planned will be earthcaching, canoeing, and short bike & hike tours of the trail system. Roy Wahl will contact REI to see if they are willing to assist with providing bikes, gps units, and kayak for the event. A recommendation was made to submit a list of the four events in celebration of the 40th anniversary so that Public Service Announcements (PSAs) could be made.
- b) Denali SP SPUD: John attended the meeting on 5 May. He mentioned that Eileen Probasco, who was the Mat-Su Borough's lead planner for this, has recently turned the project over to Dwone Adams of USKH. Dwone will finalize the document and once complete turn it back to the borough.

VII Superintendent's Report

- a) Budget issues: Core costs have increased, so only basic services will be able to be covered for many of the parks (e.g., cutting the grass and keeping the gates open). Alaska Conservation Corps will not be able to be funded. Discussion by the superintendant centered on the impact of budget cuts and

work around options for many of the parks. Princess tours will assist in funding to keep the Byer's Lake campground open and maintained. Most areas will have reduced services to include limited garbage pickup and trash can service. Dumpsters will remain, but numbers of trash receptacles will be greatly reduced. Wayne has received interest in the Big Lake parks and anticipates they will see some RFPs and an operator for those 2 parks.

- b) Capital budget: Budget is expected to have government approval. This will allow for bunkhouse renovation at Independence Mine, work on the power plant system, as well as painting.
- c) Trails: The trail grant program will allow for work on the Reed Lakes trail and upper Gold Mint trails in Hatcher Pass to proceed. Chris Razink, trail technician, was rehired to work on trails in the Nancy Lake area. The Cascade trail at Byer's Lake will also be improved this year.
- d) Denali State park: FEMA projects will be proceeding this year.
- e) Hatcher Pass: Mat-Su Borough Assembly voted against motorized use in the Government Peak subunit area.
- f) Capital Projects lists: Discussed impact of the list and what was approved for FY2010 and the recommendations for FY2011. Wayne will make a list of capital projects for CAB priority considerations.

VII Old Business

A. 40th Anniversary Events

- Matanuska Lakes – Event on 12 June 10 am – 2 pm.
- Hatcher Pass – Event on 7 and 8 Aug 10 am – 3 pm at Independence Mine visitor center. Plan will be for food to be available, presentations on historic items, bike race, foot race, walking tours. Ralph will have the lead on this.
- Veteran's Memorial: TBD – Howard Carbone is the point of contact.
- Nancy Lake: TBD but looking like late July. Steve Charles is the point of contact.

B. Ralph Baldwin urged members of the CAB to write letters to the governor, DNR, and Director of State parks regarding the necessity for an operating budget to keep Independence Mine and Big Lake Parks in operation.

- Motion: Dave Horn made the motion to proceed; motion was seconded by Robert Homer.
- Discussion: Roy volunteered to draft letter and forward to Mary Anderson. Bullet points discussed were the following:
 - High usage of Independence Mine (increased usage and revenue potential)
 - High investment by state (roads, parking, restrooms)
 - Proximity to populous
 - Public safety
 - Historic value – priceless

- Request adequate operating funding for present and the future
- Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

VIII New Business

Interview of Jim Barnett (board applicant) - conducted at 7:45 pm as noted above.

IX Notices/Announcements

- A special meeting will be June 8th, time and location TBD
- September retreat will be at Independence Mine State park. Time TBD.
- October CAB will be held Oct 12, 2010. Location TBD.
- Ideas and updates for the Alaska State Parks' 40th anniversary celebration.

X Adjournment

Motion: Robert moved to adjourn. Neil seconded.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Submitted by: Neil Fox, acting secretary.